REMARKS

According to the Office Action, an election of one of the following groups of claims is required:

Group I - Claims 24 to 34

Group II - Claims 35 to 36, 41, and 42

Group III - Claims 37 to 40 Group IV - Claims 43 to 51

Applicants elect <u>with traverse</u> the claims of Group I, <u>i.e.</u>, claims 24 to 34.

Since new claims 52 to 55 refer to claim 24, it is believed and respectfully submitted that claims 52 to 55 should be grouped with claim 24 and examined with claim 24.

Applicants respectfully <u>traverse</u> on the grounds that new claims 52 to 55 constitute linking claims that link the claims of Groups I to IV. Accordingly, withdrawal of the unity of invention objection is respectfully requested, and examination of claims 24 to 55 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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